(b) whether NREGA could bring a parity in minimum wages and include all NREGA worker in social security schemes like EPF, ESIC, gratuity and pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Minimum wages prevalent in a State are fixed by the respective State Governments under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. No case of encouraged migration have been reported so far due to different minimum wages in different States.

(b) Initially, the wage rate for agricultural labourers notified by the States under Minimum Wages Act was adopted as wage rate under NREGA in accordance with Section 6(2) of NREG Act. Central Government has notified wage rate under NREGA for different States *vide* notification dated 1st January, 2009.

Aim of NREGA is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Benefits like EPF, ESIC, Pension and gratuity are available to the workers of organized sector. NREGA workers are casual workers and do not belong to any organized sector. Therefore, the benefits of EPF, ESIC, Pension and Gratuity are not extendable to NREGA workers. However, in order to ensure that NREGA workers are also provided with social security schemes in addition to benefits already available under the Act, Government has decided to include them under the "Rural Poor" Category of Janshree Bima Yojana and to extend the benefits of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.

Ongoing schemes and projects in Uttar Pradesh

987. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing schemes and projects of the Ministry in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of complaints and suggestions received in regard thereto;

(c) the action taken thereon and amount involved in each scheme/project; and

(d) whether the full allocated budgeted allocation was spent by the Ministry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The ongoing major schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NRGEA), Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programmes (IWMP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) etc.

(b) and (c) The complaints received in the Ministry are immediately brought to the notice of the concerned State Government for remedial measures. The complaints are also investigated by the independent National Level Monitors and Officers of the Ministry through field visits. The types of complaints and suggestions are many. Mainly these are non-adherence to programme guidelines, delay in funds received, parking of funds and mis-utilisation etc. The complaints therefor cannot be clubbed together to quantify the amount involved.

(d) The Central releases under allocation based schemes of the Ministry, to Uttar Pradesh by the Ministry of Rural Development during the last three years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 was Rs. 12392.36 crore and State Government has reported an utilization of Rs. 11678.48 crore which is 94% of allocation.

Clean drinking water to rural areas

988. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80 per cent of people in our country especially in rural areas do not have an access to clean drinking water and 37.7 million people are affected by water borne diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that 1.5 million children die due to diarrhoea every year and 21 per cent of communicable diseases in the country due to unsafe water;

(d) whether Government spends Rs. 6700 crores on treatment on water borne diseases in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to prevent water borne diseases and provide clean drinking water to rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) According to a report entitled 'Safe Water, Better Health' published in 2008 by the World Health Organization (WHO), 86% of the population in India has been provided with improved water facility. According to the same report, 88 per cent cases of diarrhoea world-wide are attributable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation or insufficient hygiene. These cases result in about 1.5 million deaths every year, most being the deaths of children. The category "diarrhea" includes some more severe diseases, such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery, all of which have related "faecal-oral" transmission pathways. Children particularly in developing countries suffer a disproportionate share of disease burden due to water, sanitation and hygiene. The fraction of total deaths or DALYs (disability adjusted life year) attributable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation or hygiene is more than 20% in children upto 14 years of age.

(d) and (e) Government has taken a number of steps to enable the people to have access to safe drinking water and prevent water borne diseases. For improving health of people living in